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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 507
By DeBerry J

A RESOLUTION to commend Dr. E. Claude Gardner for his
lifetime achievements in education and the
ministry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those exemplary individuals who through their outstanding efforts and dedication have enhanced both this state's education system and the ministry; and

WHEREAS, Dr. E. Claude Gardner is one such outstanding citizen who, throughout his illustrious tenure at Freed-Hardeman University, has distinguished himself as a public-spirited citizen of the highest order and as an exceptional asset to his community; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gardner was born in Marmaduke, Arkansas on January 16, 1925; he was first affiliated with Freed-Hardeman University as a student where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1944 and then Abilene Christian University in 1946; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to academic excellence did not end there; he continued to pursue his education at Southwest Texas State University where he received a Master of Arts in

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1947; subsequently he completed graduate studies at George Peabody College and earned five honorary doctorates; and

WHEREAS, this most remarkable alumnus of Freed-Hardeman continued to support and contribute to the university, through his service as the Chairman of the Department of Education and Psychology from 1949-56; in addition, he was the Registrar from 1950-68 and the Dean of the College from 1959-69; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gardner's professional career proved to be an invaluable asset at Freed-Hardeman University; he became the Vice President in 1969, and then served with great probity as the President from 1969-1990; he was further recognized by the university for his astute leadership and guidance as the Chancellor for the school from 1990-92, and was bestowed the title President Emeritus in 1992; and

WHEREAS, his commitment to education extends beyond the university; Dr. Gardner is the Chancellor of Georgia Christian School in Valdosta, and Chancellor of the Preacher Training College in Kakinada, India; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gardner's unparalleled allegiance to educational excellence is illustrated by his membership on the Tennessee State Certification Commission, the Education Commission of the States, and the Tennessee College Association, in which he served as past President; and

WHEREAS, E. Claude Gardner is a dedicated servant and mentor to the Church of Christ; he is a minister and author of numerous religious articles; and

WHEREAS, he has traveled the globe sharing his expertise and experience as a noted lecturer; he has addressed audiences in Korea, Taiwan, Singapore, Germany, England, Scotland, Russia, Haiti, the Republic of South Africa, India, Slovakia, and Austria; and

WHEREAS, aside from his estimable educational and professional commitments, Dr. Gardner still finds time to lend his skill to the Board of Directors of the Chester County Bank, and served as past President of the Heritage Tower Board; and

WHEREAS, in addition, he is a founder of three community organizations: Crime Stoppers of Henderson and Chester County, the Chester County Chamber of Commerce, and the Chester County Senior Citizens; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Gardner is the recipient of numerous awards and accolades; he was selected as a member of the Blue Key Honor Fraternity, and Alpha Chi Honor Society, the Alumnus of the Year at Freed-Hardeman, Civitan of the Year, and Citizen of the Year by the Chamber of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, his great influence, understanding, and sense of compassion have been experienced by many; Dr. Gardner was a special source of strength for Representative John DeBerry upon the death of his mother; and

WHEREAS, his many awards and accomplishments aside, Dr. Gardner is most appreciative of the love and support he receives from his wife of 55 years, Delorese Tatum, their four children, and six grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to acknowledge and applaud Dr. E. Claude Gardner for his dedication to Freed-Hardeman University, the religious ministry, and to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Dr. E. Claude Gardner, consummate professional, comforting minister, and stalwart friend, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.